

# InPHARMation!

July 2012



**madigan**  
Healthcare System

## *Madigan Healthcare System, Department of Pharmacy*

### **1. PILL DESCRIPTION ON PHARMACY LABELS**

Most Madigan Pharmacy prescription labels contain a medication safety tool that many patients are not aware of. The labels contain a description of the medication's shape, color, and imprint code. It is not uncommon for patients to receive different looking tablets or capsules when they refill a prescription because pharmacies will periodically stock different manufacturers for the same medications.

Patients are highly discouraged from taking medications that look different than expected without verifying that the medication is correct. The medication description on the pharmacy label is one way to assure accuracy. The description is based on the medication's national drug code (NDC).

Documentation from many pharmacies indicate that patients have discovered medication errors utilizing this safety tool. Most of these patients were able to notify their healthcare provider and pharmacy and eliminate a potential serious adverse outcome.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices recommends all patients know the names and strength of the medications they are prescribed and check the labels or package contents for accuracy. Please do not hesitate to contact your pharmacist as a means of additional verification.

Information courtesy of: ISMP,  
<http://www.consumermedsafety.org/alerts.asp?id=140>

**Call your refills in advance!  
(253) 968-2999**

**Ask about our next-day  
prescription drop off service!**

### **2. MEDICATION UPDATES:**

#### **Recent Pharmacy Additions**

- **Ingenol Mebutate** 0.05%, 0.015% gel
- **Progesterone** mincronicized 100mg, 200mg tabs
- **Doxylamine** 25mg tabs

### **3. SUNDAY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DISCHARGE PHARMACY SERVICES**

Although the Outpatient Pharmacy at Madigan Army Medical Center is closed to the general public on Sunday, patients discharged from the Madigan Emergency Department can have their prescriptions filled at the Outpatient Pharmacy between the hours of 7AM and 3PM.

The Sunday Emergency Department Discharge Pharmacy entrance is located directly around the corner from the Main Outpatient Pharmacy entrance (first door on the right). The After Hours Pharmacy located on the ground floor near the dining facility is open and available to Madigan ER discharge patients whenever the Main Outpatient Pharmacy and ER Discharge Pharmacy is closed.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY**

LTC William R. Elliott, Chief  
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### **Articles Featured This Issue**

1. Pill Description on Pharmacy Labels
2. Medication Updates
3. Sunday ER Discharge Pharmacy Services
4. Hours of Operation
5. The Importance of Knowing How to Use Your EpiPen in Case of an Emergency
6. Frequently Asked Questions

### **4. HOURS OF OPERATION:**

#### **Madigan Main**

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays

#### **Madigan Main (Drive-Thru)**

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

#### **Madigan Main (Refill Window)**

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

#### **Winder & Okubo Clinic Pharmacies**

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Closed Sat., Sun., and Federal Holidays

#### **Mini-Mall (PX) Pharmacy**

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Sat., Sun., and Federal Holidays

#### **McChord Pharmacy**

Monday-Friday 7:30a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Sat., Sun., and Federal Holidays

## **5. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING HOW TO USE YOUR EPIPEN IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**

Individuals susceptible to severe life-threatening allergic reactions are often prescribed epinephrine and instructed to carry it at all times in case of an emergency. Epinephrine is commonly packaged in single-dose pre-filled automatic injection devices. It is injected into the thigh without having to remove any clothing. Although epinephrine auto-injectors have instructions listed on the device, it is still important that both patients and caregivers know the proper way to use these devices ahead of time.

The pre-filled auto-injectors dispensed from Madigan Pharmacy contain a training device. The trainer is easily distinguishable from the real auto-injectors because it says "training device" and does not contain a needle. It is highly recommended that patients and caregivers of young children use the training auto-injector to familiarize themselves with the device in case a real emergency occurs and the medication has to be immediately administered.

Information courtesy of: ISMP, <http://www.consumermedsafety.org/article.asp?id=218>

## **6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Question:** What options do I have to obtain my prescriptions if I am leaving the country for more than 3 months?

**Answer:** Active-duty Service Members and contractors deploying with orders will be able to obtain a 3 or 6 month medication supply. These individuals will also be instructed to sign up for the Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy. It is recommended that all other individuals who are not deploying and simply leaving the country for an extended period of time contact a pharmacy staff member by phone (253-968-2999) or in person for more options. The pharmacy staff member will be able to assist all patients on a case by case basis. In certain circumstances, an additional 1-3 month supply of medications may be provided.

**Question:** Am I permitted to pick up a family member's or friend's prescription at Madigan Pharmacy?

**Answer:** The patient does not have to be present; however, the friend or Family Member must have a thepatient's ID card (a front and back copy is acceptable).

## **InPHARMation!**

**Question:** Does my active-duty spouse in uniform have to be present in order for me to take a C ticket to have my prescriptions filled?

**Answer:** Yes, an active-duty Service Member must be in uniform in order to be authorized to take a C ticket. The Service Members in uniform may pick up their Family Members prescriptions as long as proper patient identification is presented at the pharmacy window.

**Question:** Why shouldn't I take a pharmacy ticket before my medical appointment?

**Answer:** Although the pharmacy is a very busy operation, approximately 80 percent of all prescriptions are filled in 30 minutes or less. Taking a pharmacy ticket and going to your medical appointment or leaving the pharmacy area for an extended period of time oftentimes results in the patient missing their number. These patients will be required to take a new ticket. Patients who miss their number (no-shows) increase everyone else's waiting time.

## **Care with Compassion!**



## **Did you know?????**

You can get your prescriptions in the mail!

Visit



[http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy/tmop\\_order.cfm](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy/tmop_order.cfm) for more information.

